

### Tips for Sampling for Plant Analysis

Proper sampling for plant analysis is very important and requires that a definite plant part be taken at a certain time during the growing season. Following these guidelines will help ensure that a sufficient quantity of tissue is submitted for analysis and that the sample collected is representative of the area under investigation.

#### Key Points to Remember



##### **DO NOT SAMPLE:**

- (a) Diseased, insect or mechanically damaged plants (unless disease or insect analysis is desired, follow Plant Disease and Insect sections).
  - (b) Stressed plants (i.e. drought or extremes in temperature).
  - (c) Plants in advanced fruiting stages.
  - (d) Tissue that is contaminated with dust or soil. If all the tissue available is dusty, wash gently with flowing water. However, do not prolong washing.
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Plant samples should be placed directly into large portion of the plant kit, in clean paper or cellophane envelopes. **DO NOT WRAP OR ENCLOSE** samples in polyethylene bags or other impermeable containers. Dry excessive wet samples before placing them into bag or container. Submit your samples to the Fayette County Extension Office as soon as possible.



When sampling plants with suspected nutrient deficiencies at times other than recommended sampling times, one from the normal plants and one from the abnormal plants. Place in separate bags or containers and mark each for future reference.



If sampling instructions are not given for the crop you wish analyzed, a good **RULE OF THUMB** is to sample the most recent mature leaves.



Complete the plant history form (available with plant kit from the Fayette County Extension Office) as accurately as possible. The more complete the history form is filled out the better the interpretation of the analysis recommendation will be. Bring this information with the plant samples.



When possible, collect a soil sample at the same location the plant sample was taken. Send soil samples separately from plant samples but make reference to each other so the County Extension Agents and University of Georgia Extension Service Specialists have access to the soil and plant analysis results.